

State of North Carolina Department of Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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250 Participants Attended 31st Annual NC SADD Leadership Conference

RALEIGH, NC – November 20, 2013

Approximately 250 participants attended the 31st Annual NC SADD Leadership Conference at the DoubleTree Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh this past weekend. The conference featured highway safety, teen pregnancy prevention and leadership workshops. Speakers who were disabled in traffic accidents, responsible for the vehicle deaths of others, or had family members lose their lives in traffic accidents gave personal accounts of their experiences. The students also held a candlelight memorial for their peers who lost their lives because of their own or others' destructive decisions.

Claire Pelletier, a senior at Southwest High School in Jacksonville, received the Student of the Year Award. This award is given to a SADD member who is a good role model for other students and who demonstrates exemplary commitment to the program through chapter leadership and prevention activities.

Dallas Hicks, a school resource officer at West Iredell High School in Statesville received the Advisor of the Year Award. The recipient of this award is selected from nominations submitted by students. Officer Hicks was selected because of his leadership and selfless dedication to the welfare of his chapter members.

On opening night, Singer Scotty McCreery, who was on tour, sent a video expressing his support for the conference and the SADD program and congratulating the students on their work in trying to guide their peers in positive directions.

For additional information about <u>NC SADD</u> or the conference, please visit the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office online or contact NC SADD State Coordinator Harriett Southerland at 919-807-4400.